

Art Unit: 1651

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Bruce Londa on 11/16/2011.

The application has been amended as follows:

Claim 6 is replaced with the following claim

Claim 6. A method for the production of autologous intervertebral disk cell transplants, wherein vital intervertebral disk cells are isolated from at least one of degenerate prolapsed intervertebral disk tissue and affected intervertebral disk tissue wherein anulus fibrosus cells and nucleus pulposus cells so isolated are cultured as a mixture of these cells in a monolayer with addition of autologous serum without addition of exogenic growth-promoting compounds and without addition of antibiotics and fungistatic agents, thereby obtaining intervertebral disk cell transplants having cells which are capable of proliferation, migration and differentiation.

Claims 7-12, 15 and 16 are cancelled.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to TAEYOON KIM whose telephone number is (571)272-9041.

The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00 am - 5:00 pm ET (Mon-Thu).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Michael Wityshyn can be reached on 571-272-0926. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Taeyoon Kim/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 1651